



MEAP

Coordinator Update

Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability – Michigan Educational Assessment Program – Vol. 2, No. 1 – August 31, 2004

District Superintendents, Administrators and MEAP Coordinators Receive Enrollment and Order Forms for Fall 2004 MEAP High School Assessment

Information critical for the administration of the Fall 2004 MEAP High School Assessment has been mailed to local and intermediate school district superintendents, directors and authorizers of public school academies, administrators of non-public schools and all MEAP coordinators.

The mailing contains a variety of important information related to the assessment including:

- Timelines and Participation Guidelines
- Information regarding Pre-ID of students to be tested
- School and District Address Verification Forms
- Supplemental Materials Order Forms
- Enrollment Forms to indicate the number of tests needed

In an effort to improve the clarity of the communication and make it easier to respond:

- the cover letter and instructions have been shortened to two pages
- forms have been printed on colored stock
- test timeline and participation guidelines have been provided on a separate sheet for easy reference
- test timelines have been expanded to include dates that schools and districts can expect assessment results.

All forms are due via FAX by Tuesday, September 14. If your school or district office has not received the mailing, please contact MEAP Scoring Services immediately at 1-877-683-6883.

English Language Proficiency Assessment Field Testing This Fall

Federal legislation requires that all English language learners (ELL) shall be assessed annually to determine their progress in becoming proficient in English. Michigan's long-term goal is to create uniform measures that support teachers who help students learn English and participate more fully in academic courses. There is much work ahead, and successful field testing of English language proficiency (ELP) assessments is an important step in the process.

Michigan is participating in two federally funded grants that are targeted to develop English language proficiency (ELP) assessment for statewide use. Both assessments will field test all ELP components required by federal legislation. This includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, and comprehension.

A letter is being distributed to districts selected to participate in the field testing. The letter lists the minimum numbers of students and grade levels to be tested.

A teleconference will be conducted on September 9, from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. to facilitate the administration of each field test. Representatives from each project will be on hand to assist in answering questions. Videotapes of the teleconference will be made available for use by districts and schools.

If you have any immediate questions about the teleconference, field test administrations, or the field test itself, please contact either Marilyn Roberts, RobertsM@michigan.gov, or Mazin Heiderson, HeidersonM@michigan.gov.

Get Assessment Information Firsthand: Join Us for the OEAA Fall Conference

Please plan to join us for the Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability Fall Conference (formerly known as the MEAP Fall Conference). Choose the date and location that is most convenient:

1. Tuesday, September 21 – Marquette – Northern Michigan University
2. Wednesday, September 22 – Grayling – Holiday Inn
3. Monday, October 4 – Lansing – Lansing Center
4. Wednesday, October 13 – Grand Rapids – Crowne Plaza on 28th Street
5. Monday, October 18 – Sterling Heights – Best Western Sterling Inn

Fall Conference topics will include:

- Content Area Updates
- Getting Ready for Fall Testing 2005
- MI-Access Updates
- EdYES! and AYP Updates
- Understanding MEAP Writing Scores Workshop
- Grade Level Content Expectations: Assessment and Instructional Implications
- Is It Ethical?
- And much more!

Registration is now available at www.gomiem.org. Be sure to “click” the conference title “Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability Fall Conference 2004” for the conference agenda and session descriptions. Links to the registration site are also available at the MEAP and OEAA web sites.

Development Efforts Intensify for 2005-2006 Assessments

To comply with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements, the MEAP is in the process of developing new test designs for field testing during the winter and fall 2005 testing cycles. More details related to test designs will be released as they become available.

The MEAP will be returning grades 3 through 8 to fall testing in 2005 so that teachers will receive test results in time to use them during the school year for planning instruction. The goal is to provide information that can assist schools in meeting the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals of NCLB. Operational testing for elementary and middle school in all subjects for the 2005-06 school year is scheduled for October 3 – 21, 2005.

These changes can be expected to have a major impact in grades 3 through 8. As required by NCLB, every student must be tested in mathematics and English language arts every year. The results must be reported in such a way that teachers can see how the students are performing on each of the Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs). Consequently, more students will be tested and the tests will be longer than they have been for the past several years.

In the past, the MEAP has used field testing in a limited number of schools to assist in trying out new test items for future assessments. Because the MEAP plans to release all items relating to the core GLCEs each year, it is necessary to significantly increase the field testing of new test items. As a result, a relatively large number of schools will participate in field testing new items in grades 3 through 8 during the Winter 2005 operational testing cycle.

Assessment coordinators will be notified by October 12th as to whether or not their schools have been selected to participate in the field testing. The quality of the future MEAP tests depends on having a sample that adequately represents the students in the State. As a result, schools that are selected as part of the sample will be required to participate in the field testing.

The standard MEAP tests will consist of operational and field test items. The field test items will be scored, but will not be used for determining student scores or for reporting. Students will not be able to distinguish the field test items, since they will be mixed in with the operational items. MEAP tests will be administered at the same grade levels as they have been in recent years:

- Grade 4 – English language arts (ELA) and mathematics
- Grade 5 – Science and social studies
- Grade 7 – English language arts
- Grade 8 – Mathematics, science and social studies

In addition, a limited number of schools will be selected to administer stand-alone field tests. Stand-alone field tests will only be used to try out test items and will not be used for scoring or reporting purposes. Schools will be selected to provide a representative sample of the statewide student population. Stand-alone field tests will be conducted in the following grades and subject areas:

- Grade 3 – English language arts and mathematics
- Grade 5 – English language arts and mathematics
- Grade 6 – English language arts and mathematics
- Grade 7 – Mathematics
- Grade 8 – English language arts

Science and social studies tests will also have embedded field test items. There will be opportunities for schools to participate that are not part of the random sample. If you are interested in volunteering for stand-alone field testing, please contact MEAP@michigan.gov or call Wanda Fedewa at 1-877-560-8378 to apply.

In Fall 2005 and beyond, the MEAP will include field test items for all subjects in each MEAP test booklet. For mathematics, each student will take about 16 field test items in addition to the items that will count in their test scores. For ELA, each student will read an extra reading passage, or write an essay based on a prompt, in addition to the items that will be reported as part of their scores. This will keep the tests to a reasonable length. It will be important that all students approach the field tests seriously, as this will ensure that the results from year to year will accurately reflect their progress on similar content expectations.

Michigan Teachers to Have Expanded Role in Developing Assessment Items

Another change in the test development process will be a return to the previous practice of involving Michigan teachers in developing assessment items. In recent years, assessment items have been provided by a testing contractor and reviewed by Michigan teachers. Beginning with the Fall 2005 field tests, all items will be written, tried out and reviewed by Michigan teachers.

The goal is to provide MEAP assessments with a bank of items that are both relevant and of high quality. In addition to being remunerated for their work in item development, teachers selected to participate will have an opportunity to increase their familiarity with the GLCEs and further enhance their knowledge of Michigan standards.

Please Keep Us Informed

Do you have a new superintendent, MEAP coordinator, or others who need access to the MEAP secure website? Please, keep us up-to-date with your changes so those who should have access will have it when they need it.

Also, the MEAP email list includes the superintendent and the MEAP coordinator for each district. You can add up to two additional contacts. They will receive all general notices including the MEAP Coordinator Update.

For fast and accurate updates to the secure website or the MEAP email list, send your request to MEAP@michigan.gov

New Web Addresses

A reminder that MEAP, OEAA, and MERIT all have new web addresses:

MEAP public website: www.michigan.gov/meap

MEAP secure database: www.michigan.gov/meap-secure

OEAA public website: www.michigan.gov/oeaa

MERIT website: www.michigan.gov/meritaward

MEAP email address : meap@michigan.gov

Best wishes for a great school year from all of us at OEAA!